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REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 9, 11-15, 17, and 22-23 are amended. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested. Claims 9 and 11-29 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 9, 11-15, 17, and 22-23 are amended to clarify a separate "computer" used by a respective "agent."

Claims 9 and 11-13 are also amended to recite, using claim 9 as an example, "wherein upon one of the plurality of the elementary service agents having a communications format different than other of the plurality of the elementary service agents converting data that is input to, and output from, the one of the plurality of the elementary service agents so as to allow use of a uniform input/output interface." Support for the amendment is provided, for example, on page 8, lines 1-4 of the specification.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because it is believed that the amendment of claims 9, 11-15, 17, and 22-23 puts this application into condition for allowance and should not entail any further search by the Examiner.

ITEM 2: OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 9 AND 11-29

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 9 and 11-29 because of the informalities. The Examiner contends that:

the specification describes the user agent . . . as a physical systematic component, . . . However, the Applicant's arguments and amendments . . . are potentially describing the "agents" as people performing a job.

(Action at page 2).

Claims 9, 11-15, 17, and 22-23 are amended to clarify a separate "computer" used by a respective "agent" to address the Examiner's concerns. That is, using claim 9 as an example, "a user software agent computer used by a user agent." Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

ITEMS 5-25: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9 AND 11-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY DELORME ET AL. (US 5,948,040)

The Examiner rejects claims 9 and 11-29 as being anticipated by DeLorme. The rejection is traversed.

As provided in MPEP §706.02 entitled Rejection on Prior Art, anticipation requires that

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the reference must teach every aspect of a claimed invention. DeLorme does not support an anticipatory-type rejection by not describing features recited in the present application's independent claims

Independent claims 9 and 11-13, all as amended, respectively recite a service brokering method, a computer readable storage medium, and a service integration system including, using claim 9 as an example:

(1) "integrating a plurality of elementary services realized on a system which comprises a user software agent computer used by a user agent,"

(2) "a brokering software agent computer used by a brokering agent connected to the user software agent computer via a network and providing a complex service integrating a plurality of elementary services realized on a computer to the user agent,"

(3) a plurality of elementary service agents connected by a computer to the brokering software agent via a network and each of the plurality of elementary service agents providing an own elementary service realized on its own computer and provided independently from each other,

the method comprising:

(1) "storing, by the brokering agent, for each elementary service, service description information comprising a combination of identification information of an elementary service agent which provides the elementary service, declarative description information on information needed to realize the elementary services, and declarative description information on the processing results of the elementary services, the declarative description information comprising a declarative description, and a statement of properties of an object of description;

(2) "upon receipt of a request message for the complex service from the user agent, decomposing the complex service into the elementary services using the service description information, by the brokering agent, and generating a service request plan comprising strings of combinations of at least elementary service request information needed to realize the complex service, and identification information of the elementary service agent which provides the elementary service; and requesting elementary services to the plurality of the elementary service agents based on the generated request plan by the brokering agent, and compiling the processing results so that the processing results of the complex service are prepared and notified to the requesting user agent,"

(3) "wherein upon one of the plurality of the elementary service agents having a

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communications format different than other of the plurality of the elementary service agents converting data that is input to, and output from, the one of the plurality of the elementary service agents so as to allow use of a uniform input/output interface."

(Emphasis added).

Since according to aspects of the present invention a method, system, and medium include a network of a user software agent computer used by a user agent, a brokering software agent computer used by a brokering agent connected to the user software agent computer via a network and providing a complex service integrating a plurality of elementary services realized on a computer to the user agent and "agents converting data that is input to, and output from, the one of the plurality of the elementary service agents so as to allow use of a uniform input/output interface," the method, medium, and system according to the present invention are readily able to integrate new services to an existing complex service.

DeLorme does not teach a service brokering method, medium, or system including storing "a combination of identification information of an elementary service agent which provides the elementary service (emphasis added)."

DeLorme does not teach a method, medium, or system, combining information of elementary service "agents."

Rather, DeLorme merely teaches a system that integrates inputs from a plurality of service providers, that are not agents.

Further, DeLorme does not teach a method, system, or program teaching a conversion "wherein upon one of the plurality of the elementary service agents having a communications format different than other of the plurality of the elementary service agents converting data that is input to, and output from, the one of the plurality of the elementary service agents so as to allow use of a uniform input/output interface." Accordingly, the system taught by DeLorme would not be as readily able to integrate a new service to an existing complex services, such as according to the present invention.

Summary

Since features recited by claims 9 and 11-29 are not taught by the cite art, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 9 and 11-29 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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